

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-13 SY-07 USSS-00 M-03 A-01 INRE-00 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1122

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TUNISIAN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW WITH
AMBASSADOR ON SUBJECT OF PALESTINIANS

1. IN RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE PAO JUST MADE TO DIRECTOR
OF AL- AMAL, ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER REPRESENTING DESTOUR
PARTY, REGARDING SERIES OF EDITORIALS TAKING UNFRIENDLY
POSITION REGARDING KHARTOUM TRAGEDY, DIRECTOR HAS
ASKED TO SEE ME FOR PURPOSES OF " CLARIFICATION." I WILL
OF COURSE RECEIVE HIM. IN ADDITION, HE PROPOSES THAT
AUTHOR OF THESE EDITORIALS INTERVIEW ME IN ORDER TO PRESENT
QTE OUR SIDE UNQTE.

2. I BELIEVE THIS OFFERS US OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME
USEFUL POINTS RE USG POSITION ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND,
ACCORDINGLY, I INTEND TO GRANT THIS INTERVIEW WITH
UNDERSTANDING THAT TEXT WILL BE CLEARED BY ME BEFORE
BEING PUBLISHED.

3. I REQUEST DEPARTMENT' S APPROVAL TO SAY FOLLOWING:

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A. USG HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED THAT PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS CRUX OF ARABIC/ ISRAELI ISSUE AND, AS WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES PUBLICLY, WE BELIEVE THAT NO SOLUTION POSSIBLE WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF PALESTINIANS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PALESTINIANS LIVE IN JORDAN OR IN OCCUPIED JORDAN. TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTED TO PERPETUAL CONFLICT REPRESENT ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT.

B. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT BEST WAY FOR REALIZATION OF PALESTINIAN AIMS IS THROUGH TERROR. ON CONTRARY, TERRORISM OF ANY KIND IS REPUGNANT TO ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLES AND IN OUR VIEW CAN ONLY SERIOUSLY HARM PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

C. USG BELIEVES THAT PRESENT NO WAR/ NO PEACE SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST SERVES NO COUNTRY'S INTEREST AND THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO MOVE TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY ROGERS HAVE BOTH STATED PUBLICLY THAT USG ATTACHES HIGHEST PRIORITY TO A RESOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

D. IN OUR VIEW, PURSUIT OF PEACE EFFORTS PROMOTES INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS BECAUSE IT OFFERS THEM PROSPECT OF RETURNING TO LANDS WHERE THEY FORMERLY LIVED, OPPORTUNITY TO START A NEW LIFE AND IN MANY CASES COMPENSATION.

E. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS PEACE EFFORTS MUST BE NEGOTIATED THROUGH AND BY EXISTING GOVERNMENTS IN AREA, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF REPRESENTATIVE PALESTINIAN GROUP COMMITTED TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RESOLUTION 242, BUT EVENTUAL PALESTINIAN ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS HAS NEVER BEEN FORECLOSED.

F. USG BELIEVES THAT QUESTION OF WHETHER SOME FORM OF PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PERSONALITY SHOULD EVOLVE IN CONTEXT OF PEACE SETTLEMENT IS MATTER TO BE DETERMINED BY PARTIES CONCERNED. USG PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ANY REALISTIC PROPOSALS BY ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING PALESTINIANS, AND TO GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER THE PARTIES DECIDE.

4. I HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL AUTHORIZE ME TO MAKE FOREGOING POINTS. BELIEF IS WIDESPREAD AMONG PALESTINIANS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANY NON- PALESTINIAN ARABS THAT USG CARES LITTLE ABOUT

THEM AND THAT PEACE INITIATIVES IGNORE THEIR INTERESTS.
QUITE CLEARLY, ESCALATION OF TERRORIST ATTACKS BY
PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS IS REFLECTION OF INCREASING DESPAIR
IN PALESTINIAN RANKS. WHILE THESE EXTREMISTS CAN HARDLY
BE EXPECTED TO BE PLEASED WITH KIND OF LIMITED SETTLEMENT
WHICH WE HAVE IN MIND, THIS IS NOT CASE WITH SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION OF PALESTINIANS WHO BELIEVED TO BE PREPARED ACCEPT
SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC 242. MORE SUBSTANTIAL USG STATEMENTS
RE OUR INTERESTS IN PALESTINIANS WOULD BE DIRECTED AT
THIS " SILENT MAJORITY."
SEELYD

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